



PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Maureen Cragin

Ryan Vaart

(202) 225-2539

PRESS ADVISORY

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONDUCT FIELD HEARING IN NORFOLK

The Subcommittee on Military Readiness of the Committee on Armed Services of the U.S. House of Representatives will conduct a field hearing on Monday, March 22 at the Bachelor Officer Quarters, Ely Hall, located at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. The hearing is open to the public.

The subcommittee is in the process of considering readiness related aspects of President Clinton's fiscal year 2000 defense budget request. The purpose of the hearing is for the members of the subcommittee to better understand the problems, challenges, and budgetary shortfalls affecting the readiness of U.S. military forces. The committee will also hear about the efforts underway to maximize Information Technology at the operational level, as well as the overall progress of Y2K compliance efforts.

Media Information:

- All members of the press interested in covering the hearing should contact Cmdr. Mike Andrews or Ms. Beth Baker at Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs office (757) 322-2853.
- On the day of the hearing, press should arrive at the Norfolk Naval Station Tour & Information Office located on Hampton Blvd in Norfolk no later than 0830 for check-in.
- Directions: The Norfolk Naval Station can be reached by exiting off I-64 onto I-564 in Norfolk. I-564 runs into Admiral Taussig Blvd. Proceed on Admiral Taussig Blvd to the end/Hampton Blvd. Turn left on Hampton Blvd. The Tour & Information Office is located on the right just before the first traffic light.

Public Information:

- The hearing is open to the public.
- Members of the general public that do not possess a military or dependent's identification card, may obtain a visitor pass for the hearing by presenting a valid photo ID to the sentry at gates 3A or 4.

Witnesses:

Panel One:

- Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., Commander in Chief, Atlantic Command/Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, U.S. Navy
- General Peter J. Schoomaker, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, Department of Defense
- General Charles (Tony) Robertson, Commander in Chief, U.S. Transportation Command, Department of Defense

Panel Two:

- General Thomas Schwartz, Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command, U.S. Army
- Admiral J. P. Reason, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, U.S. Navy
- General Richard E. Hawley, Commander, Air Combat Command, U.S. Air Force

Panel Three:

- Colonel Robert Michael Williams, Commander, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Ft. Stewart, Georgia, U.S. Army
- Command Sergeant Major Edward Dean Foerstel, Command Sergeant Major, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Ft. Stewart, Georgia, U.S. Army
- Captain F. Joseph Klingseis, Commanding Officer, USS ANZIO (CG 68), U.S. Navy
- OSCM William B. Robbins, Command Master Chief, USS ANZIO (CG 68), U.S. Navy
- Colonel Raymond E. Johns, Jr., Commander, 62nd Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Washington, U.S. Air Force
- Senior Master Sergeant Gary Rutledge, Maintenance Flight Chief, 68th Fighter Squadron, Moody AFB, Georgia, U.S. Air Force
- Colonel Robert B. Neller, Commanding Officer, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II MEF, U.S. Marine Forces, Atlantic, U.S. Marine Corps
- Sergeant Major Richard I. Thornton, Regimental Sergeant Major, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine, Division, II MEF, U.S. Marine Forces, Atlantic, U.S. Marine Corps

Background Information:

In previous years, the subcommittees of the House Armed Services Committee have conducted similar hearings throughout the U.S., and the information learned from the witnesses directly influenced many of the provisions contained in the annual defense authorization act.

The jurisdiction of the House Armed Services Committee covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the significant national security portions of the annual operating budget of the Department of Energy. DOD's annual budget in excess of \$260 billion involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted primarily within the context of the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill.

The committee divides its responsibilities between five standing subcommittees (Military Procurement, Military Research and Development, Military Readiness, Military Installations and Facilities, and Military Personnel) and two special oversight panels (Moral, Welfare, and Recreation and Merchant Marine).

The Military Readiness Subcommittee is chaired by U.S. Representative Herbert H. Bateman of Virginia and is comprised of 22 members of Congress. The subcommittee is responsible for the annual authorization of funding for operation and maintenance, the readiness and preparedness requirements of the defense establishment, and related legislative oversight.

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